

## **Amendments to the CLAIMS**

1. - 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) A method for screening a chemical compound for activity in blocking the chloride channel ClC-7, which method comprises the following steps:

providing a test cell comprising one or more ClC-7 chloride channel expressed in osteoclasts and of the ClC family;

subjecting the test cell to the action of the chemical compound; and

measuring the ability of the chemical compound to block the ClC7 chloride channel,  
**wherein the screening method identifies compounds having potential activity in treating osteoporosis, osteolytic cancer invasion, or Paget's disease of the bone.**

10-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) A method for screening chemical compounds for potential activity in the treatment or alleviation of an osteoclast related bone disease in a subject, which method comprises

screening compounds in a test cell so as to select compounds having the ability to block the chloride channel ClC-7 expressed in osteoclasts and of the ClC family,

**wherein the osteoclast related bone disease is osteoporosis, osteolytic cancer invasion, or Paget's disease of bone.**

19. - 20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 18, comprising screening the compounds so as to select compounds having the ability to block the chloride channel ClC-7 but

not having the ability to block a chloride channel selected from the group consisting of chloride channels C1C-1, C1C-2, C1C-4, C1C-5, C1C-Ka and C1C-Kb.

22. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 18, comprising screening the compounds so as to select compounds having the ability to block specifically the chloride channel C1C-7.

23. - 27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the screening method identifies compounds having potential activity in treating an osteoclast related bone disease.